compared to that in 1982 and 1983. But there is a slight increase of cases during 1985, as compared to that in 1984, which might be due to the increased awareness of the disease and, detection of cases. The number of cases of Poliomyelitis reported to the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI) by the medical institutions during the past four years is as under:—

Year	Cases
1982	21469
1983	21310
1984	18040
1985	19733

The above figures reflected only the reported cases by the various medical institutions.

(c) To reduce the morbidity and mortality due to Poliomyelitis, Polio vaccinations has been included under the Expanded Programme on Immunization from 1979-80. The coverage of Polio Vaccination has been steadily increasing from 16.10 lakh infants in 1980-81 to 119.08 lakh infants in 1985-86. It is planned to cover 183.00 lakh infants in 1989-90. The Universal Immunization Programme started in 1985-86 also involves immunization against Poliomyelitis and, by 1990. 85 per cent of infants would be covered under this programme. This percentage of coverage, it is expected would be enough to provide the 'herd immunity against the disease.

Merger of Air India and Indian Airlines

301. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA;

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 93 given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd July, 1986 and state:

(a) whether Government have since taken any final decision to merge Indian Airlines and Air India; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Missing art objects from festival of India in USA and France

302. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many of the invaluable items sent to Festival of India in France and USA are missing if so, the details of the missing items;

(b) whether the possibility of complicity of Indian Festival authorities with antique thieves could be ruled out in such cases;

(c) what steps Government propose to take to recover the items; and

(d) what are the details of the investiga tion made and what is the outcome there of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) No, Sir. Of all the exhibits sent to Festival of' India in U.S.A. and France, only a tiny mouth piece called 'Munal' of a Hookah is reported to have been missing while in the custody of the National Museum, New Delhi.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Report has been lodged with the Police, who are investigating the case.